

### This month's Theme:



### *Speak Out* *A FEW WORDS FROM*

## Teamwork

### Hello CASA Volunteers

Feels like Summer is almost here ☀️. I just wanted to say I had a great time at the CASA Recognition Banquet. I am very proud of all the volunteers and thought that every volunteer should receive a little something to recognize all you for your endless dedication & commitment to the children you represent. The CASA Program would not exist without the volunteers. Congratulations to all our winners. (Please see the article on page 3 for details) I want to say a special thank you to the Arizona Lottery for their generous Community Sponsorship which helped pay for some of the banquet expenses.

This year's CASA picnic was simply awesome. We had such a big turnout it was unbelievable. (See special write up on the picnic by Cindi) The clown, "La La", was great and the magician was funny and of course the bouncy was a hit as always. Thanks to Cindi Lafromboise for doing all the planning and helping with set up & clean-up. Thanks to Edwin for meeting me at the CASA office at 10:30am to start loading everything up and then setting up once we got to the park and cooking the hotdogs and helping clean up and taking everything back to the CASA office. Thanks to Susan Steenhard for helping set up, keeping things tidy, and helping with the cleanup. Thanks to Martin Guzman of M&M Jump Time for donating his jumper. Thanks to Ed Mills, "Mister Ed", of [www.FamilyFunMagic.com](http://www.FamilyFunMagic.com) for putting on a wonderful show. The CASA Picnic rocked this year.

We have four new volunteers and two veteran volunteers that will be participating in the Flex Learning which begins May 1<sup>st</sup> and will end May 29<sup>th</sup>. That means we will have 4 new volunteers joining us sometime in June and two veteran volunteers going through a refresher course. We

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### **Newsletter Committee**

Editors - Susan/Cindi  
Design/Layout - Ruth

have one volunteer attending the CASA Academy in Phoenix May 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>. We just certified a volunteer last week (Ofelia Flores) and she has been assigned her first case. Sara VanCamp is certified and will be assigned her first case next week.

We will have a booth at the Women's Expo again this year and plan on recruiting several new volunteers.

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, Becky Ruffner will be doing an all-day Best for Babies training at the Clarion. Please don't miss this important training event. At this month's H.U.G., we are going to introduce the CASA Case Review Team. The team will explain why we feel there is a need to do case reviews, other counties' that have had success utilizing the reviews, and why we think a case review can address many problem areas in your case.

--Dennis

## **TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES-- Increase your knowledge**

**Attend the H.U.G. meeting on Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30,  
Detention Training Room. Bring your lunch.  
The topic will be on the new Case Review Team**

This month's H.U.G. we will introduce the Case Review Team (CRT) and will discuss why we decided to implement a case review team. First of all I think we all can agree that our cases have not been free of problems and the path to permanency has not gone smoothly. I know many of you have come to me for advice and guidance and sometimes I can help and sometimes I have to ask an experienced volunteer to help guide me. The child welfare system is overwhelmed in Yuma which will definitely have an adverse effect on dependency cases. The reality is we are always going to have issues with our cases. The best possible solution is to have case reviews every month so a volunteer can bring their case in front of the case review team to get advice and guidance from experienced volunteers on the review team who are not personally involved in the case and are a fresh set of eyes.

The CRT will review the case and make recommendations. Please first see if any of your issues or concerns can be solved by speaking with Dennis. These kinds of issues would be CPS not communicating with you or disclosing information, agencies not providing child with services, and other issues Dennis might be able to solve by contacting a supervisor. We will be talking in more detail about what types of issues & problems the CRT should be addressing in the case reviews. If you are not able to make the H.U.G. please come and see me. The CRT will start by reviewing 4 cases every month from 8:30am - 12:00pm, each case being allotted 45 minutes. The team has discussed reviewing a few cases after 5pm that same day for any working volunteers that would not be able to make the morning reviews. Two weeks prior to the actual case review, there will be a form that would be filled out and turned into the CASA office by the volunteer that is having their case reviewed so the team can have time to get familiar with the cases that are being reviewed that month.

Currently the Case Review Team consists of: Kim Sutton, Susan Steenhard, Rachel Gongaware, Adam & Vicki Freund, Carol Fry, Christopher Johnson, Gladys Schalm, & Cindi Lafromboise. We will have 4 - 5 team members sitting on each review. Each member is unique and has a lot of experience in specific areas, so we have a well-rounded team. New volunteers will be invited, as part of their post academy training to sit in on 1 or 2 reviews. I am so excited about our new venture because as a program we will get so much out of it. We hope other volunteers will want to be a part of the CRT sometime in the near future. We welcome anyone that would be interested.



## Improving Outcomes for Arizona's Infants and Toddlers in Juvenile Court

# Baby CASA Training Agenda

May 31, 2013

Clarion Suites • Yuma, Arizona

- 8:15am **Continental Breakfast**
- 8:45am **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Overview of young children in foster care.** The facts about very young maltreated children, trauma and separation on very young children. Goals of Best for Babies and role of the child welfare system.
- 10:15am **Break**
- 10:30am **Essentials of Early Child Development**
- What do infants and toddlers need to develop normally? How we can help young children heal and thrive when they face abnormal challenges? What is "toxic stress" and how does stress impact child development?
- 11:45pm **Lunch**
- 1:00pm **Working together on behalf of babies in the court system**
- Best practice recommendations. Community resources for young children. Working together as a team to improve outcomes for all young children in the dependency system.
- 2:15 **Break**
- 2:30 **Observing and supporting relationships**
- Role of the Baby CASA. Using the Checklist of Essential Services to assure timely services. How to make sense of relationships between young children and foster parents/bio parents. What Baby CASA court reports should address. How to advocate for what is "best interests" of young children.
- 3:45pm **Adjourn**

(This training qualifies for 5 hours of training credit)



**FIRST THINGS FIRST**

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

[azftf.gov](http://azftf.gov)

*Funding for this program is provided by:  
South Phoenix and North Phoenix Regions*



# CASA Volunteer Recognition Banquet

## 20th Annual CASA Awards Banquet

By Susan Steenhard

On April 17, 2013, there was a great gathering of volunteers who work tirelessly for the best outcome anyone could ask for: permanent, safe homes for abused and/or neglected children. That is what we do with nothing asked for in return. So one day each year, recognition is given to honor these extraordinary people. Thanks was given to each one who serves and the following were given special honors this year for their service. Congratulations!!

<b>CASA Of The Year:</b>	<b>Dr. Christopher Johnson</b>
<b>Judges Award:</b>	<b>Kim Sutton</b>
<b>Rookie Of The Year:</b>	<b>Ruth Sanchez</b>
<b>Shining Star Award:</b>	<b>Nina Wilson</b>
<b>Roadrunner Award:</b>	<b>Kerri Underhill</b>
<b>Foster Parent Of The Year:</b>	<b>Sonia Sarabia</b>
<b>Special Recognition:</b>	<b>Marcia VanLuvanee</b>

We were honored to have both Judges present: Judge Stocking-Tate and Judge Reeves, along with our YCCI board members. Chris McDaniel from the Yuma Sun was present and wrote a generous article for us. Special thanks to the Clarion and The Core from CTC who provide excellent service.

Our fearless leader, Dennis, was surprised with a special recognition gift from Susan S. and Cindi L. This CASA program would not be the great success it is without his tireless dedication. Looking inside of the evening's program there are 17 new or 1 year CASAs with more to follow. Three of those CASAs received awards this evening.

It was a great evening with food, conversation, surprises and a time to reflect on the great quality of people we have that work within our CASA family. Hope to see you next year!!



# CASA PICNIC

April 20<sup>th</sup>

Another CASA children's picnic has come and gone and WOW was this one a winner. Fun was the word of the day and if the smiles on the children's faces were any indication, there was a lot of that being had. I counted around 53 adults and children but of course moving targets are hard to count so I could be little off but it was a great turnout regardless of the exact number.

Mr. ED put on a really funny magic show and the children were mesmerized, it isn't every day that we get to put a little magic into their lives. So, we are really grateful that Dennis was generous enough to donate this huge treat for the children.

"LA LA", the clown was a treasure. She lit up the day of so many and to see the looks on the children's faces as they studied her while she painted their faces was something to behold.

As usual the food was a hit and many hot dogs were consumed, of course the popcorn, snow cones, watermelon and cupcakes made for some happy tummies.

95 degree temperatures added to the fun and when the children got too warm from jumping and jumping in the jumpy house they would head straight for the water features where a whale or a dolphin quickly cooled them down. Dennis's friend Martin, of M&M, provided the jumpy house again this year and we are more grateful than he will ever know. On the wind down, Sue Tilly provided squirt sticks and bubble wands and there were bubbles galore floating around with babies chasing after them.

This was such a fun day that I don't know what else to say other than Thank You, Thank You, Thank You to everyone who provided support in any way to make this day all that it was for the children. Hope to see you all again next year.

**Cindi**



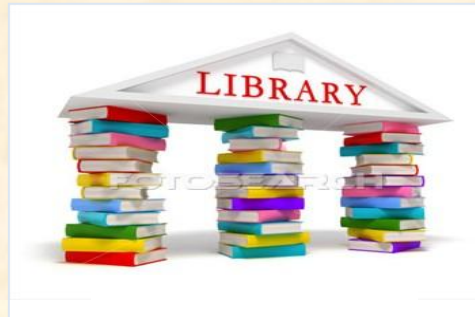


## Christian Segura, Amberly's Place

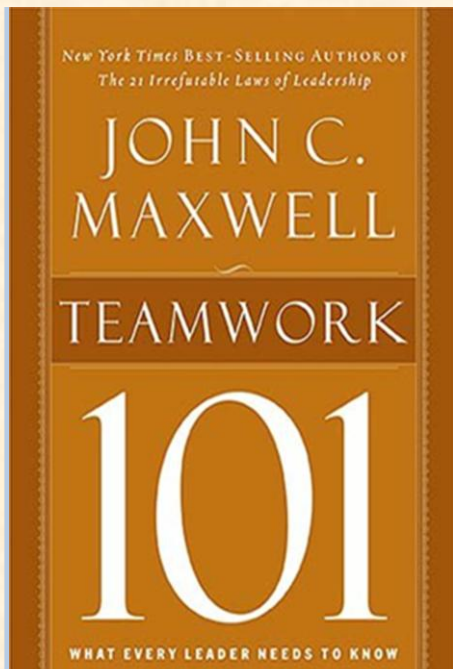


# BOOK REVIEW

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## DESCRIPTION



**For every leader who has ever wondered what level of excellence their team could achieve, *Teamwork 101* lays out a plan packed with insight to get them there.**

John C. Maxwell believes that "teamwork is at the heart of great achievement. The question isn't whether teams have value. The question is whether we acknowledge that fact and become better team players." In *Teamwork 101*, Maxwell draws on leadership wisdom from his books *The 17 Indisputable Laws of Teamwork*, *Talent Is Never Enough*, *Developing Leaders Around You*, *The 360° Leader*, *Winning with People*, *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*, and *The 17 Essential Qualities of a Team Player*. This concise, power-packed game plan can help leaders create an environment that brings about victory and fulfillment to the whole team.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <b>CONTACT LOGS DUE</b>	2 <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</b> Citlali Moore	3	4 <b>Women's Expo</b> <b>The "Q"</b>
5 <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</b> Eunie Walker	6	7 <b>YCCI</b> <b>10:30</b>	8 <b>FCRB</b>	9 <b>H.U.G.</b> <b>11:30 DTR</b> <b>FCRB</b>	10 <b>CASA Academy – Phoenix</b>	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 <b>CASA Lunch</b> <b>11:30</b> <b>Red Lobster</b>	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 <b>Best For Babies</b> <b>Clarion</b>	June 1 <b>CONTACT LOGS DUE</b>

**CASA Anniversaries:**

**Sue Tilley**

**10 Yrs.**

## **Upcoming Dates:**

### **Events:**

May 4th -- Women's Expo, Quechan Casino  
May 31<sup>st</sup> -- Best for Babies, Clarion

### **CASA Luncheons:**

Contact: Vicki Freund  
581-4629

June - Las Herraduras

### **Academies:**

Tucson; June 13-14  
Phoenix; July TBD

# Quarterly CASA statistics

## Program Statistics

### CASE STATISTICS— By Veronica



### 3rd QUARTER STATS (January – March 2013)

**Court reports filed: 100**  
**New Cases: 33 with 71 kids**  
**Kids Adopted: 2**

**Currently, the office has –**  
**38 assigned cases with 71 kids**  
**122 unassigned cases with over 239 kids**  
**7 Delinquent or Dually Adjudicated kids with**  
**a CASA; 26 without.**

**In the state of Arizona, the number of children in foster care has increased 37% since October 2009.**

**Cases closed - 6**  
**8 returned to Parent**  
**2 Adopted**  
**0 Aged Out**  
**0 Guardianship**

**Casa Program**  
**Yuma County Juvenile Justice Center**  
**2440 W. 28th Street**  
**Yuma, AZ 85364**

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**We're on the Web!**  
**See us at:**

**[http:// www.CASAofYumaCounty.org](http://www.CASAofYumaCounty.org)**



***Make a difference in a child's life—Become a CASA Volunteer***